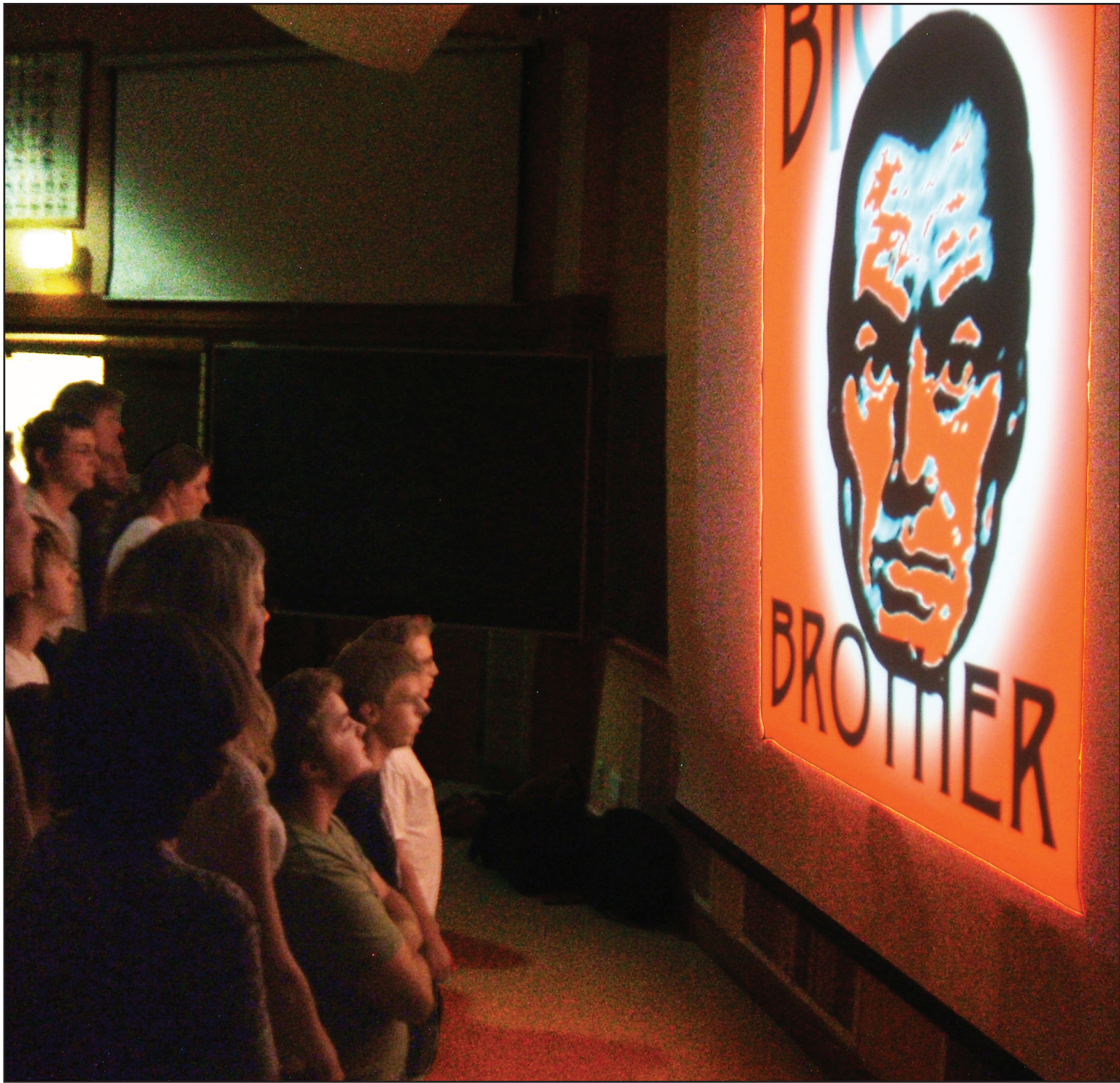


Through the Third Eye of History



MEAVE HAMM / OREDIGGER

Understanding Uniformity: Colorado School of Mines freshman gaze upon the “Big Brother” symbol from George Orwell’s 1984.

Shell President Visits Mines Discusses the Future of American Energy

Ricky Walker
Staff Writer

“Imagine running out of gasoline in the country that founded modern energy.” These words were spoken by John Hofmeister, the President of Shell, as he gave a speech at the Colorado School of Mines last week. Mr. Hofmeister’s speech focused primarily on the development of alternative energy sources, the utilization of coal and oil shale deposits in the United States, and the role of the government in energy public policy.

Mr. Hofmeister cited four major insecurities that the nation currently needs to deal with: border

insecurity, financial insecurity, environmental insecurity, and energy insecurity. Energy insecurity, as Hofmeister explained, is the only insecurity that the United States is not only failing to solve, but rather is hindering with public policy.

As an example of the insecurity the nation faces, Hofmeister described the crisis of hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, which caused a 25% decrease in

production in the Gulf of Mexico for September, while, at the same time, demand for oil remained the same. As many will remember, this caused soaring gas prices and, according to Hofmeister, almost caused a run on gasoline in the Eastern United States. Production ability has changed very little since then, but the demand has gone up.



MEAVE HAMM / OREDIGGER

SEE “ENERGY” PG 2

Diversity in a Decade of Dispute

David Sommer
Staff Writer

This is not a sermon. This is not morality. It is the probing of one mind, the thoughts of an individual who wishes to remain an individual. They cannot be read as otherwise. If I am to pursue the mentalities of the past, if I am to understand the thoughts and feelings of those who have gone before me from this school, I must do it with caution. I must tread the worn paths of the history with light feet and a wary eye.

We are faced now with the question of our own society and the importance lies in its concern for us and us alone, though we may bury it within the walls of our school. I sit in the grass, in the sun on the Kafadar Commons, watching the myriad of people who pass without a second glance - without a second thought. They are all wrapped up in their destination. Not many think about the present anymore and even fewer are concerned with the past. They all start to look the same.

I look to my left and I see a familiar face. I call it familiar because it is the same face I have seen day in and day out - no two people look different anymore, at least in terms of their thinking. “Surely some revelation is at hand,” the words of Yeats roll through my mind. I can only hope that something new awaits us on the horizon, that some new idea may come to fruition from an unlikely student in an unlikely society. I can only hope that my search will bring me this far, to the diversity I seek.

Diversity is a simple word, but simple words most often come with the widest range of meanings. In the most straightforward sense of the word, diversity means difference in appearance from person to person. It is bone structure, eye color, or body language that counts us apart. From a socialized standpoint, it is the ethnicity or racial background that defines a person. Culture determines the individual, not the other way around in this case.

Yet, if we are to delve deeper into the meaning of diversity, we find that it is not just a measure of appearance or race, but of differences in thought. Indeed, what it means to have a diverse society is that no two people think exactly alike. Humanity has a hard enough time trying to agree on the truth, when the truth of the matter is that we need not agree.

SEE “DIVERSITY” PG 5

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World News in Brief

UNITED STATES - 5 people died in Crandon, Wisconsin on Sunday after a gunman opened fire at a residence. The gunman is reported to be part of the local law enforcement.

IRAQ - Blackwater, a private American security firm working for the US State Department, killed 17 Iraqi civilians in September. The investigation of the situation has been handed over to the FBI. Blackwater CEO Erik Prince was under fire from Congress last week.

IRAQ - The two leaders of Iraq's Shia groups – Moqtada Sadr and Abdul Aziz al-Hakim – signed an agreement last week that would move toward unifying the populations.

SUDAN - A town in the Darfur region of Sudan was burned to the ground and looted last week by rebellion forces.

JAPAN - The Japanese lunar explorer, nicknamed Kaguya, has successfully entered an orbit 60 miles above the surface of the moon, where it will collect data on the moon's origin and evolution.

Emily Trudell, Staff Writer

Blackwater Under Fire

Security Contractor Under Investigation for 17 Deaths

Emily Trudell
Staff Writer

Unbeknownst to most Americans, the United States military is not the only militant America force involved in the Iraqi conflicts. Over the course of the war in Iraq, the U.S. government has issued a number of private contractors to help take on a militant role in the region.

Over recent weeks, one such firm has been accused of brutality against Iraqi citizens, after an incident in mid-September that caused the death of roughly ten citizens, with many other confirmed injuries. Blackwater USA, the privatized security contractor involved in the incident, asserts that members of the force were simply defending themselves against armed Iraqi attackers.

Other onlookers, however, have claimed that the Blackwater soldiers attacked citizens without reason, targeting civilians.

Blackwater USA was founded by former Navy Seal Erik Prince, and was one of the first privatized armed forces to join the efforts of the U.S. occupation of Iraq. It currently has headquarters in North Carolina, and has reported that it employs at least 1,000 personnel in Iraq.

Initially, the firm was involved in providing training to government officials, but now regards itself as a comprehensive professional security and law enforcement agency.

More recently, the United States has faced criticism of outsourcing the war, allowing private companies

to take on jobs that should be the responsibility of the government. Blackwater has been accused of being a mercenary group that is taking advantage of such conflicts in order to reap the economic benefits.

Moreover, on September 19, a panel consisting of Iraqi and American officials noted that the recent violence involving Blackwater raises concerns that private contractors are too militant and are further complicating the problems in the area.

Myanmar Protests

Emily Trudell
Staff Writer

Over the past week in the small country of Myanmar, a pro-democracy movement of thousands lead by Buddhist monks and have held mass protests in the country's largest city of Yangon.

Myanmar, otherwise known as Burma, has been a ruled by a military junta for over twenty years, preventing the country from having democratic and causing the United Nations to sanction the actions of the government. The recent protests began in mid-August, when the Burmese government raised gas prices by roughly 500% without notice.

Last Monday, the protestors in the city were in excess of 100,000, the

largest protest in the nation since a failed uprising in the late 1980's.

In order to quell the dissenting crowd, officials from the government have set a curfew to ban gatherings after 9 pm and before 5 am. Also, the military has deployed armed soldiers to guard Yangon. Already, the protestors have suffered at least five confirmed deaths, and there have been reports of beatings and military aggression.

Because of this potential for violence, the U.N. has stepped in, sending an envoy to Myanmar at the start of the week to promote peace. The envoy completed its visit on Tuesday, without any reported improvement in the country's situation.

Oil Shale

Ricky Walker
Staff Writer

In a world where the need for an alternative energy source is becoming more and more important, the Colorado School of Mines is hosting the 27th Oil Shale Symposium on the week of October 15th in the Green Center. The goal of the symposium will be to review development of oil shale resources in order to both reduce dependence on foreign oil as well as to secure energy resources for the future.

The reason for seeking an energy source in oil shale deposits is well understood throughout the Mines community. According to a report on the CSM website, the Green River formation in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming can provide roughly 1 trillion barrels of oil. According to some, success of the project depends on whether the extraction can be done in both an economical and environmental fashion.

These are but some of the issues that will play a part in the symposium next week. The main issues of the symposium include the research development of oil shale resources, impact analysis, regulatory framework, and project and program status. The scheduled events for the symposium begin with a broad overview session on Monday, October 15, technical discussions on October 16-17, and will complete with an optional field trip on Thursday, October 18 and Friday October 19.

There will be more than 350 attendees to the symposium, including Shell, ExxonMobil, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, Petrochina, and others. In a world where energy is a growing issue, the oil shale symposium promises to have important implications for both the present and the future.

Sparking the Energy Debate

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

As the speech went on, the subject moved towards a rational approach to energy in the future. Hofmeister highlighted all of the options for alternative energy, however he talked specifically about two sources of energy that will likely become a major factor in the future: oil shale deposits and US coal.

"The United States has more coal than any other country," Hofmeister explained. While most people believe burning coal significantly pollutes the atmosphere, the process of coal gasification holds large promise for the future of energy from both an economic and environmental stance. He explained however that restriction on coal gasification is one of the many examples of US public policy preventing large scale capitalization of alternative fuel.

In addition to coal, Hofmeister mentioned that Shell has been investing in private oil shale research for almost 35 years and that it shows great potential for energy in the future. According to a website on the Oil Shale Symposium, the Green River formation in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming has the potential to produce almost 1 trillion barrels of oil. However, once again according to Hofmeister, US

public policy has only hindered progress on this issue.

After mentioning alternative fuel sources from hydrocarbons, Hofmeister touched on many alternative fuel sources that do not result in carbon emissions. "This is back in your hands," Hofmeister said to the room of Mines students, describing solar technology, saying that it simply is not good enough to allow for large scale use. Touching on several other fuel sources including wind, hydrogen, and biofuel, he emphasized the difficulty in switching to any one of these fuel sources. "The US burns enough gas to fill one swimming pool every second," he said, noting that, when energy consumption is large, suitable alternative energies are difficult to find, especially when many of the technologies are still in developmental stages.

He concluded his speech saying that some of the largest things that need to change with energy in America are: energy efficiency and preservation, greenhouse gas policy, and education about where energy comes from. Currently, education on energy in America involves saying, "Flip the switch and the light comes on." Hofmeister made it very clear that, if we wish to have energy security for today as well as tomorrow, we need to educate Americans at an earlier age where energy actually comes from.

English Conversation Night for Foreign Students

Practice Makes Perfect

Greg Smith
Staff Writer

What is the best way to master something? Do it. A lot. This is exactly what international students eager to improve their English conversation skill are doing.

Diane Witters leads a group of students every Wednesday in English Conversation Group. Korea, Mexico, Thailand, Australia, and Chile are among just a few of the countries represented. The meetings are very informal and it is not uncommon for a student to be there one week and not the next.

"While many of the students who come to Mines

are very confident with their general skills and technical expertise, some say that it's difficult in their classes and department offices to get the conversational practice they'd like. They crave a casual environment where it's easier to experiment with the language, ask questions, share opinions, build confidence, and make friends," said Diane Witters.

Around 15 students attend any given week and the discussions range from controversial issues such as global warming and politics to more mellow, easy-going

topics like comparing respective countries to each other's and to the United States. They also play games such as "Unsolved Mysteries," where students write down something interesting that has happened to them in their life and the other students try to guess who it is and then discuss the event. This week, a student from Chile explained how she once had to jump out of a helicopter! They also discuss things like verbs and adjectives, past tense and present tense, and pronunciation. "We've touched on gun control, the purpose and practice of Ramadan, culture shock, and climate change," said Witters.

To imagine life for a foreign student, take the average student's course-load and then add a language barrier.

While at the meeting, it was nice to feel like an expert on something for once! But, it is easy to take something as seemingly trivial as speaking for granted.

"The time it takes for [international students] to feel 'comfortable' in conversation depends on many factors such as their affinity for learning new languages, the degree of contrast between their native language and English, their personality and

commitment to improving their skills, and the available opportunities for practice and constructive feedback," said Witters.

All students wanting to work on their English conversation skills are welcome to the meetings.

The group meets Wednesday evenings at five in Stratton Hall room 410. "It's been great to have patient, friendly native speakers attend the group also.

The international students are often curious about American culture and attitudes," said Witters.



MEAVE HAMM / OREDIGGER

Geek of the Week

...Jerad Hughes, Sophomore

Satira Tajdin-Labib
Staff Writer

[Oredigger] What makes you a geek?

[Hughes] Probably it is the fact that I do all those really geeky things. And I'm really into Halo. I can do most of the really complex math problems, but then I forget to carry the one. It's really depressing. I can also recite the words to the song, "The Sun is a Mass of Incandescent Gas" (apparently a really nerdy song).

What is your geekiest joke?

All the great scientists had died and gone to Heaven. They hadn't had a nice childhood, so they were trying to relive it by playing "hide and seek." So Einstein counted to 100 in German, and then opened his eyes and turned around. He saw Newton, standing there. He was trying to hide on top of a square drawn on the ground. The square seemed to be one meter by one meter. So Einstein

said, "What are you doing hiding there, Newton?" The man responded, "I'm not Newton! I'm Pascal!"

What is the geekiest thing you've done?

It was when I was sitting in the Slate, and I happened to overhear a conversation. They were talking about some rock and its ability to float and its density. They described the density in lbs/ft cubed. So I was thinking that usually density is measured in grams/centimeters cubed. So I grabbed a napkin and started working out converting the metric systems I knew to try to match the empirical system they were using.

Who is your role model?

Oh, let's see it would have to be Alex Yuffa. He was my Physics II TA. He would always address us as "little serfs" and tell us to "Go do what your little dictators tell you to do." He was so laid back, and would always drink coffee and converse in the foulest language.

Do you have a geeky talent?

I can insult classmates with the geekiest words possible. I've used these to on a fellow student in class, when they replied the most incorrect answers possible. "Well, looks like natural selection missed one." And "I'm surprised you have the IQ to breathe."

What motivates you here at Mines?

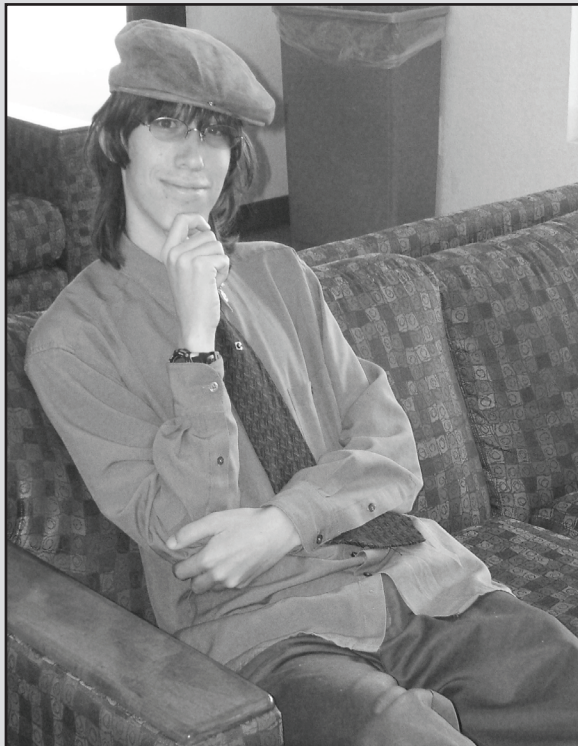
Probably, the thought that some day I'll actually get out of here. Also, some day I'll actually get to work real problems in the real world. They'll be no more of these nonsense problems they assign us everyday in class that have no real world application.

What is your favorite math thing?

The very rare instances when you see the light at the end, and the Math Gods are shining down on you, that instance when you realize that what you are doing might actually be useful. Plus, the squiggly Greek letters we get to use.

Do you prefer geek girls?

Actually, some of the girls here at Mines scare me. When you kill me



MEAVE HAMM / OREDIGGER

HALO THERE: Jerad Hughes shows off his tie.

in Halo, that scares me. When you are way more athletic than I am, that scares me. Sometimes I think girls are more complicated than Calculus.

What do you want to do after you graduate?

I want to blow things up. I'm getting my degree in mining. It'll feel great when I know someone has put lots of time and effort into building something and I get to blow it up. It's kind of morbid, too. Or, maybe something that I can apply all the very useless things I've learned here, to look smart.

When do you think someone can automatically assume someone else is a geek?

When they've got the giant, round glasses on with the large, gold frames. Or possibly when you are in class and they pull out a slide rule. Also, geeks always tend to wear horrendous ties.

History of Senior Stetsons

Where on *Earth* Did They Come From?

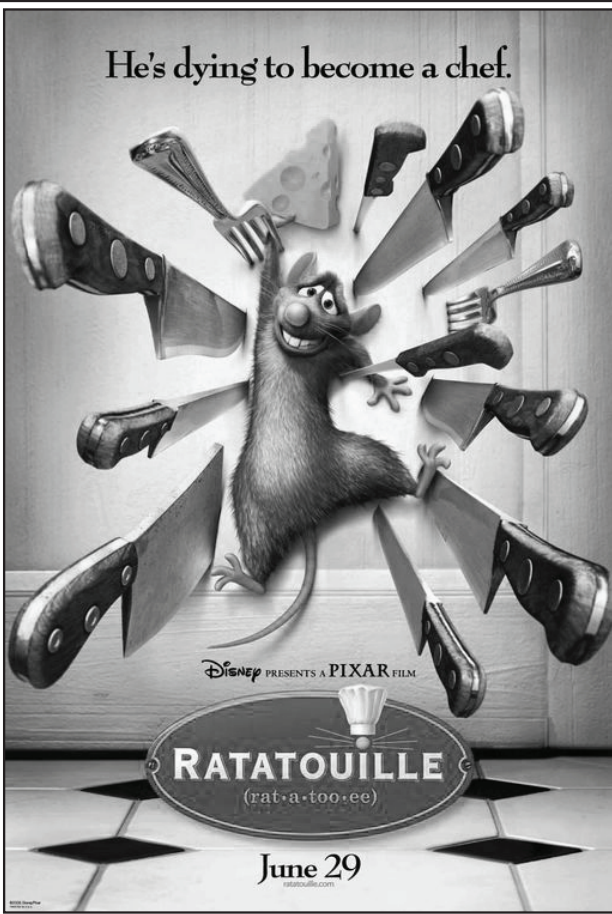
Melinda Bartel
Staff Writer

Out of all the traditions at the Colorado School of Mines, one of the most unique and time-honored is the Senior Stetson. Graduating seniors can purchase a Stetson, a distinctive kind of lightweight felt cowboy hat characterized by its tall crown and narrow brim, and even if they don't wear it, keep it as a memento. Historically, mining engineers from the gold-rush era were identified by their silver-belly Stetson. Their hat was like a "badge" for their trade. While working, it was easy to pick them out. The Stetsons were a symbol of "pride and profession" and were a mark of experience because of the sweat and dirt stains accumulated on them. The more experienced the miner, the more worn out their hats became. Eventually, a student at Mines decided it was unfair that new graduates stuck out in their new Stetsons. To fix this disadvantage, they allowed graduat-

ing seniors to purchase their Stetson their final year and wear it in. That way, when they began their new job, their hats were worn in and they were ready for the beginning of their professional engineering career. Nobody really knows the exact time Mines seniors began wearing Stetsons. However, it was before 1900; the 1900 graduate class signed a silver-belly Stetson that is now on display in the CSM Alumni Association office. Alumni from the class of 1901 stated that miners wore the Stetsons when they went underground before hard hats were available. The Stetson hats were actually in style between the 1920s and 1940s. In fact, engineers often appeared in pictures wearing their Stetsons in various journals and

magazines. Although few seniors or graduates actually sport their Stetson, many seniors still purchase in honor of the tradition and as a reward for graduating Mines. This year, seniors can purchase their Senior Stetson from Corral West at a bargain price. There are five different styles of hats to choose from that range in price from \$120 to \$200 each. However, Corral West gives seniors 10% off the total cost, and in addition the Senior Class covers half the cost. From now until Wednesday, October 17th, Seniors can go to Corral West (1-70 and Youngfield Ave, Applewood Village Shopping Center) and pick out their Stetson. The Stetsons should arrive in plenty of time for graduation. For more information on the Senior Stetsons, contact the Senior Class Treasurer Amy Dubetz at adubetz@mines.edu.

Mines Activity Council Movie Night



COME SEE *RATATOUILLE* THIS THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, AT 9:30 PM IN THE STUDENT CENTER BALLROOMS

Digger Dave's Career Corner

Monday, October 8

Exxon Mobil Info Session

Ballroom B 6:00 – 8:00 PM

ChemE, Civ, Elec, Env, PE, Met, ETM

Samsung Information Session

Stu Ctr, # 236 6:00 – 7:00 PM

Chem, ChemE, EE, Mech, Mat, Phys, Civ,

ArcelorMittal Information Session

Ballroom C 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Mech, Met and Materials

Aera Energy Info Session

Ballroom D 7:30 – 8:30 PM

ChemE, Mech, Geo, PE

Tuesday, October 9

Anadarko Info Session (Geosciences)

Ballroom C 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Pioneer National Resources Info Session

Ballroom E 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

ChemE, Mech, PE

Occidental Info Session

Ballroom B 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

ChemE, PE

Caterpillar Info Session

Ballroom A 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Mech, Elec, Met

Wednesday, October 10

M.A. Mortenson Information Session

Brown Bldg 201 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Civil, Mech, Elec

Newfield Exploration Info Session

Ballroom D 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

PE, Geology, Geophysics

Duff & Phelps, LLC Info Session

StuCtr, #236 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Econ, PE, Mining

Encana Info Session

Ballroom A 6:00 PM-7:00 PM

Geochem, Geos, ChemE, PE, Mech

Petro-Canada Mining Info Session

Ballroom E 7:00 PM -8:00PM

URS Information Session

Brown Bldg 201 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

CompSci, Enviro, ChemE, Civil, Geo, ETM

Thursday, October 11

Shell Lunch-Time Info Session

Berthoud 243 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

ComSci, ChemE, Civil, Elec, Mech, PE, Geos

Kindy Morgan Info Session

Alderson 151 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

PE, ChemE, Mech

Chevron Mining Information Session

Ballroom A 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Civil, Elec, Geo, Mining, Metallurgy

Marston & Marston Inc. Info Session

Brown Bldg, #125 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Geology, Mining Engineering

ARUP Info Session

StuCtr #236 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Elec, Mech, Civil

Baker Hughes Info Session

Ballroom A 7:00 - 8:00 PM

PE, Geos, ChE, Met, Elec, Env, Mech, Math, Civil



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Ron Brummett

Career Center Director

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Vault, in conjunction with the CSM Career Center, is a valuable asset in your arsenal of career resources. VAULT supplies you with expertly-researched, up-to-the minute insider career information that no one but Vault can access. Using these resources will give you a well-researched foundation for more personalized career planning. Vault can be accessed 24/7, even when the Career Center office is closed.

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Access the Vault Online Career Library

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Reassessing Diversity: A History at Mines

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

Diversity, then, is a necessity if we are to avoid the boredom of uniformity. Once we have crossed that boundary into monotony, into that existential vacuum, there can hardly be a return to where we began. We cannot emerge unchanged. That is why the indifference of our boredom is so much more frightening than the passion of our strife. At least with the latter we possess the clarity to know who we are.

So, what does this all mean in the context of our campus life? To understand where we are now, we must retrace the footprints of time through a brief history of the diversity and the campus climate at the Colorado School of Mines. Since its founding in 1874, CSM has attracted a consistent demographic from mostly the white middle-class, and the ethnic majority remains white to this day. Whether this is a consequence of the field of engineering or the school itself is yet to be determined, but statistics have not lied on this essential fact.

The cultural background at CSM has a history of inequity. Yet, cultural diversity is only a small part of an encompassing whole. When viewed in terms of psychological climate, in what we can refer to as a diversity of thought, CSM has built a reputation on being a focused, one-track school. The greatest emphasis has always been on engineering, and why not? CSM is an engineering school. However, there is a need for more; there is a constant demand for change.

The common student - if he or she is to remain a student - needs an escape from the constant study of a single subject. In an age where multitasking and well-roundedness are valued, academic sanity depends on not burning out.

"We don't do a very good job in our universities - they're the traditional departments that are somewhat isolated - they're insular," said Norman Augustine, former CEO of Lockheed Martin, during an interview. In addition to technical knowledge, he said that "a good engineer needs to know something about public policy, about economics, about ethics, about literature, about writing, about speaking."

It was not until 1996 that CSM noted the existence of a problem in the academic culture. These "rumblings of discontent... among the student body" led to the *Appraisal of Academic Culture at the Colorado School of Mines*, a study conducted and released by the Academic Culture Committee.

The committee noted that problems arose with a student body "whose expectations are increasingly consumer-oriented" and the "contrasts between partnered learning among adults and subservient instruction to kids." The focus of the study was on easing the burden of academia on the student, on improving the student-teacher interaction and the classroom experience. It was a recognition of the need to "be cognizant of how times are changing."

By 2001, nothing had been implemented. Recommendations were still only recommendations, ideas fit only for the discussion room. With an eye towards reviving the pursuit of campus improvement, CSM recruited Dr. James H. Banning, an environmental psychologist from Colorado State University, to assess the campus climate.

In his preliminary report released in 2002, Dr. Banning focused on the student perspective and their opinions on their academic experience, with special priority placed on the experiences of diversity groups.

In general, Banning found that "the academic environment is seen as harsh, callous, insensitive, and belittling." For minority groups, specifically women, ethnic minorities, disabled students, gay and lesbian students and international students, Banning emphasized the feeling of isolation that accompanied their lack of cultural identification.

A sense of campus unity was needed. Students, lacking community, lacking confidence, began to develop "a linkage between the amount of stress on the CSM campus and the frequency of student deaths - suicide." When asked what skill was critical for success at Mines, most students responded with time management, an indication that a "reduction in the number of hours for a degree" was needed.

For diversity groups, Banning stressed the importance of instituting "cultural artifacts" that minority students could identify with and that would breed an atmo-

sphere of acceptance and incorporation. How far have we come? To this day, CSM has still not included its gay and lesbian faculty in its nondiscrimination policy.

Banning's report went off like a bombshell. It was leaked to the press, leaked to the community, and rumors began to spread that CSM drove its students to over-anxiety and suicide. A follow-up report was never conducted. The be all and end all of the issues centered on preliminaries, on surface observations, on an initial investigation based on student testimony.

While students have a tendency to over exaggerate the bad, the Banning report was not without its merits. It addressed the potential for a deeper psychological problem within Mines than was originally anticipated. Yet, more information was needed. The truth was hardly within reach, but rather than substantiate the arguments, the Banning report was buried within the vaults of campus history. It was rarely talked about, rarely mentioned. Today the name "Banning" is taboo for those familiar with the recent history of diversity at Mines.

The essential question we are left with, then, is where are we now? When the Banning report was released, "it was like the perfect storm - all the things going wrong at the same time," said Jahi Simbai, Director of Graduate Admissions and a member of the Diversity Committee for seven years. "In the middle of all this, everything came down on the Diversity Committee." Since then, CSM has gone to lengths to improve the campus climate. "I think I have seen some loosening of the ties around here and the ability to entertain different ways of doing things. I've been more encouraged in the last two years with the new president," said Simbai.

The amount of clubs on campus is rising. Students are finding new ways of relaxing and entertaining a different side of their personalities. Still, CSM is a rigorous school, but in being so it has a responsibility "to have the support there as well," explained Simbai. Improving programs like tutoring and academic advising is a big goal. Yet, in the end, the success of the student depends on the student himself. Difficulties are often necessary to encourage students to reach their full potential. Those who rise to the occasion seldom regret the decision.

Cultural diversity is a deeper facet in the issue. "The school offers the opportunity without regards to race, creed, or background. The kids themselves have to be tough if they're going to make it through," said Gene Tafoya, member of the CSM faculty from 1985 to 1998, about the experiences of minority students.

The question is whether a minority student has the presence of mind to endure the additional burden of being a minority. Tafoya notes the experience of the Little Rock Nine: "They saw it as a bad job. The hazing, the verbal abuse, it was just part of the job. Nothing more." They would not endorse discrimination. It would not have the satisfaction of being something important. They made it through because they could detach themselves from the situation. They were individuals, not statistics in a group.

However, it is not just the feeling of isolation that discourages many minority students. "Top minority students have the pick of the top schools, schools like Stanford, MIT, and Caltech. What's stopping them from going there instead of here? If you want minority kids, you'll have to get them interested in Mines when they're young," said Tafoya.

We must not forget to ask ourselves, if there is some aspect of the curriculum, of engineering itself, that is not "diversity-friendly." CSM is "pretty homogenous, vanilla, boring," but this "is not the college's fault. It's a national problem," said Tafoya.

What is needed now is an integration of cultural diversity and the diversity of thought. The former sees students as a product of their environment. The latter sees them as a product of themselves. If there is to be any progress, a balance must be struck. The goal is "to enrich the college experience, to open stu-

dents to different thoughts and different opinions," said Terre Deegan-Young, a counselor at Mines for twenty-one years.

A common misconception among students at CSM is that they are all the same. "They will find that they are different; they just need to be prodded. The trouble with Mines is that it does not offer many opportunities for its students to socially interact and benefit from that interaction. We need to encourage interaction. The challenge is to get students to recognize how they can benefit from diversity," explained Deegan-Young.

The Admissions Office is trying harder, but it is up to the students to make their efforts worthwhile. It is necessary to have "student input."

Today, our society is growing into a global community in which it is essential to have global communication. "Many of our students have never had the opportunity to experience another culture prior to coming to Mines," said Deegan-Young.

By increasing diversity, we increase the ability to communicate. "Engineering is not just about engineering anymore. Academia just needs to buy in; we don't need to add more burden and stress," offered Deegan-Young. Most, if not all, of the true problems faced by graduates today are social and cultural, not technical. The trick is to dispel preconceived notions and a predisposition to judge before listening. The trick is to open the community and the individual to new ideas and new beliefs.

And so, I continue to sit in Kafadar, waiting for the day when diversity will no longer be an issue to write about. A campus diversity plan has recently been released. Plans are being made to make plans to diversify CSM. It is a slow process and a touchy issue, but it is progress nonetheless.

Action, however, must begin at the foundations. It begins with the students, with the very essence of the institution. It begins when we remove the blinders from our eyes, when we realize that all the world tends towards uniformity but that we need not follow. In the end, it is mentality that fosters reality, not the other way around.

And if it is true, as Viktor Frankl says, that man's freedom lies in his interpretation of his condition, in his ability to choose his judgments, then it is with a responsibility to our times, and to the times that will come and to the times that

"When viewed in terms of psychological climate, in what we can refer to as a diversity of thought, CSM has built a reputation on being a focused, one-track school."

"I think I have seen some loosening of the ties around here and the ability to entertain different ways of doing things. I've been more encouraged in the last two years with the new president," said Simbai."

"CSM is "pretty homogenous, vanilla, boring," but this "is not the college's fault. It's a national problem," said Tafoya."

"The duty rests squarely on our shoulders, not as a society but as individuals. It demands a creation of new values."

have passed, that we reinterpret what we are doing here.

The duty rests squarely on our shoulders, not as a society but as individuals. It demands a creation of new values. It cries out for new thoughts, if only to revive old ones. It requires that we heed the lessons of prior generations or else return to the monotony that has stifled many, to the boredom that has relinquished precious few.

DIVERSITY EVENT

Wed, Oct. 10, 4-6 PM,
Stratton Hall Room 313

The President's Committee on Diversity is very interested in getting your input on how to increase Mines students' cultural fluency and social adaptivity. We invite you to come share your thoughts in an open and confidential environment.

FREE PIZZA!

RSVP to Terre Deegan-Young
(tdeegan@mines.edu)

Motorcycles Invade CSM

Steven Easter
Staff Writer

Here at Colorado School of Mines, most students look for ways to help offset that high tuition cost and those numerous fees.

One way to do this is by driving motorcycles, and this is a solution used by many students. Yes, they still have to pay the same parking price to register their motorcycle as the vehicle drivers do, but they can save gas, and possibly some time by parking closer to their classes.

"I started [a motorcycle]

club two years ago, but nobody seemed to care enough to show up for any meetings, so it just kind of died out," said Garrett Garner. He hoped to host "some charity poker rides and [other events] with the community, to give Mines students the chance to learn to ride by offering discounted Motorcycle Safety Foundation safety courses so people could get their license." He also wanted to increase helmet awareness and even get political by creating a mandatory helmet law for Colorado. There are also negative views that he wanted to reverse, because "most people look at bikers as irresponsible people who just want to go fast.

While [that] might be true, a good majority of us are responsible and very safe riders, and I thought the motorcycle club could help get that image across to others."

Garner designed a motorcycle parking lot as his EPICS II project

and planned the construction of it, "but the school went and put a fire hydrant right in the middle of the drive that was going to be built, and also they never followed up on calling the contractors to get it poured. It was only going to be 10 spaces, because that's all that

Rich Boyd would fund. Currently there is no designated motorcycle parking, so there is no safe place for the bikes to park."

Although the Colorado School of Mines Department of Public Safety states that "properly registered motorcycles may be parked in the cross hatched areas of the student parking lots;" They also say that "motorcycle parking, identified by signage, is provided on campus," but Garner seems to suggest that it is practically nonexistent. There also seems to have been an increase of the number of motorcycles on campus, and as Garner put it, there are "at least 50 people who ride" at Mines.



ANDY SUDERMAN / OREDIGGER

GRIP WITH YOUR KNEES: Motorcycling is becoming more popular on campus.

Chalking It Up To...

William Everson
Staff Writer

A gentle wash of warm light bathes our little campus in the early morning hours. Sleepy students, awakened by the sharp siren bell of their alarm clocks, stagger into this inviting scape. In their drowsy haze many will stumble across one of the countless chalk advertisements plied onto concrete by willing hands. The colorful wash of limestone floods the concrete with a beautiful mosaic of advertising. Messages such as "Lumpia Sale at MEP" and "Circle K Meeting," beckon every student to take heed.

Over the course of the week, thousands of students will pass over these finite letters; each of them mentally branded by the message written on stone. Though some find these chalkings informative, others find them downright ugly. So is the nature of chalking at CSM.

Many readers may have noticed the assault of chalkings in the last few weeks upon the student center main entrance and wondered:

"Why does CSM even allow chalkings, can anyone just start chalking, and aren't there any better alternatives to chalkings?"

According to the CSM administration, chalkings are just one way of addressing the fundamental need for student advertising at CSM. Other options include outdoor banners, indoor flyers, and email. Chalkings are a way to get information out about clubs and activities. "Sidewalk chalk is the talk of the walk," explained senior Nick Macon. Chalking is a way to communicate to a large portion of the student body in an inexpensive and slightly manner; according to the Student Activities Office.

Chalking exemplifies many of CSM's advertising goals. According to Plant Facilities, chalking requires no clean up (except in the case of obscene messages). It gets washed



away by rain, snow, sprinklers, and foot traffic. Chalking also keeps

advertisements temporarily relevant by being washed away so quickly; thus, adhering to CSM's "Outdoor Advertising Policy" rule that advertisements must be removed after seven days. Chalking keeps the campus looking good. Instead of allowing flyers to be posted on any flat surface like many other campuses (think CSU), chalking (in conjunction with CSM's other advertising policies) keeps advertisements visually tasteful.

If you would like to post a chalking on campus, you need to fill out a "CSM Outdoor Advertising Policies" form from the Student Activities Office (or from their website) and turn it in to the same place. All postings are subject to approval and should be turned in at least 24 hours prior to the date of chalking.

The Kingdom is at Hand

Konrad Klett
Staff Writer

If any of my readers thinks that this was a pro-war propaganda film, they would be wrong. I thought that it would be a pro-war propaganda film when I saw the previews (which never seemed to end). Some of my more conservative friends thought that it would be an anti-war propaganda film.

Fortunately for everyone, neither one of these presumptions is the case. The movie is instead an anti-terrorist movie, and everyone hates terrorists. There certainly is a little politics mixed into the movie, but it is more of an anti-bureaucrat rant, typical of many action movies.

There is a decent story, and excellent action scenes. This is definitely the type of movie which satisfies the whole righteous anger emotion (good for after tests!). It is also a very stirring movie, as it of course talks about the very real and

very current situation of terrorism. As usual there is some Hollywood tear jerker cheese, but it is good cheese, like brie or sharp cheddar.

The acting was decent, but you will not find Oscar worthy stuff in this movie. That probably was not the intent here anyway. There is a semi-star-studded cast, with Jennifer Garner and Jamie Foxx. For once, Jennifer Garner is in an action movie instead of a romantic comedy, which makes more sense anyway. She did become famous from starring in *Alias* after all. Jamie Foxx was good as well. There really was not any bad acting in this movie, just not anything really stirring, leave that to the story itself.

All in all it was a good action movie, but not a really great movie. I am sure there will be certain viewers who are offended at the various implications made in the movie (although it was fairly politically correct). It is rated R and about terrorism, so it was violent, but in a shoot-em-up way not a gory way. It will not make many people's best film of the year. However it does have the potential to become the favorite of some.

New Classic: Cassadaga

Tim Weilert
Staff Writer

Earlier this year, Conor Oberst and his Bright Eyes band released *Cassadaga*, a folk-bluegrass journey into the human psyche. Bright Eyes, in 2005, simultaneously released two albums: the electronic-experimental *Digital Ash In A Digital Urn*, and the stripped-down folk *I'm Wide Awake It's Morning*. *Cassadaga* returns to Bright Eyes' signature Midwestern bluegrass sound, building on and picking up where *I'm Wide Awake It's Morning* left off.

The record begins with a phone conversation about the supernatural premonitions of a figurative protagonist taking a trip to Cassadaga, Florida. A flurry of strings bellow and dive, leading into the main thrust of the album. "Four Winds," the first single from the record, showcases a multi-layered mixture of acoustic guitars, strings and a slew of other instruments.

Unlike many of the records on the indie-folk scene, *Cassadaga* alludes to an older style of country music, easily heard during the middle section of the record. Confusion and beauty grip the protest song "No One Would Riot For Less," which leads into the airy "Coat Check Daydream." The metaphorical traveler finally reaches Florida during "Lime Tree," and is met with somber realizations about the people he has loved and lost along the journey.

Oberst's distinct vocals, though occasionally distracting, provide an agreeable medium for his melancholy lyrics. *Cassadaga* combines themes about love, finding escape from the Midwest, and discovering solace through a physical and spiritual journey.



HILARY BROWN / OREDIGGER

BLOK & Brew

- Poudly Serving Allegro Coffee & Tea
- Organic Espresso Drinks
- Hormone-Free Milk
- Check Library Website for Current Hours

at Arthur Lakes Library

...Get Your Coffee On

Ruck and Scrum

Rugby Off to a Rocking Season

Jake Rezac
Staff Writer

To many people, the words maul, blood bin, ruck, and scrum sound like they might come straight out of *Fight Club*. To the Colorado School of Mines Rugby team, however, these words all part of the vocabulary which has propelled them to being ranked 7th nationally in Division II Rugby Standings.

The Mines Rugby team is a traditional powerhouse, starting out the season ranked 10th. However, after big wins against Western State (69-12) and Metro State (68-0), they've moved up in the rankings.

"Our ultimate goal is to beat the University of Northern Colorado," says freshman Adam Warsh. UNC is currently ranked 2nd in the nation, and have been in the college championship game three times in the last five years and won in 2005. If Mines can beat UNC, they should be going to the national playoffs.

In order to accomplish their

goal, the Rugby team is training very hard. They have practice for two hours three times a week, trying to include a scrimmage at least once each week.

The situation this year is very similar to ones the Mines rugby team has experienced in the recent past. "A few years ago, we lost to Missouri-Rolla, which took away our chances for going to the national finals," Warsh explained. "We've been pretty good in the last few years, but the closest we've come to making the finals was that Missouri-Rolla game."

With two regular season games left, including one against Colorado State, at Colorado State, on October 14th, the Rugby team is looking to make their mark on the national rugby scene. According to Warsh, "Rugby is pretty easy - you mainly just have to listen to what the referees say." However, accomplishing their goals will be a little bit harder, and they'll have to play very hard and very well in order to win out the season, beat UNC, and make it to the collegiate playoffs.



ANDY SUDERMAN / OREDIGGER

Cycle of Victory

Jake Rezac
Staff Writer

After four races, the Colorado School of Mines Cycling team is speeding past the competition. With 4141 points in the Rocky Mountain Collegiate Cycling Conference Division II points race, the team holds a commanding 1623 point lead over second place team, Mesa State.

A number of individual racers are among the top two racers in their divisions. Joe Schneider and Nathan Monnig are both second in the Individual Endurance races for men A and B, respectively, while Piotr Wilczek is first in men C. Melissa Marts and Iris Tomlinson are ranked first and second in the women A in the same category. In the Individual Gravity division, the Mines presence is equally felt. Brandon Turman and Nathan Work are first and second in the men A, while Cristen Boyer and Myra Dyer are first and second in women A.

These Mines riders have worked exceptionally hard to get to where they are. Many of them routinely bike up to Lookout Mountain and back. Joe Schneider, a freshman this year, rides "for at least a few hours

every day while training."

One of Schneider's goals this year is to make it to the national competition, which takes place this year at Lees-McRae College in North Carolina from October 26 to October 28. Along with the rest of the Mines riders, he is in good position to compete at nationals at the moment, having 1681 more points in the nationals race than the nearest Division II competitor in the RMCCC. If Mines' dominance continues, at least one male and one female rider will go to nationals, as the NCAA rules allow for at least that coalition from each conference to compete in the competition.

However, according to Schneider, "there are a lot of very good schools in Colorado, so national competition is about the same level as we're used to." If Mines keeps up its performance, it will likely have more than the minimum two competitors. Assuming they make it to the tournament, the cyclists hope to have a similar performance as the one they had last year, placing 5th in division II. But with the intense practice habits they have, and the talent on the team, the road to success should be easier.

Matthew Pusard
Staff Writer

After 162 regular season games, it came down to one for the San Diego Padres and the Colorado Rockies. The winner would make the playoffs while the loser would be in for a long, heart-breaking offseason. This was the seventh one-game tiebreaker in major league history, the first since 1999 when the New York Mets shut out the Cincinnati Reds 5-0 and for the Rockies, it was arguably the most important game in franchise history.

At first glance, the game looked like a mismatch. Despite winning 13 of their last 14 games, the Rockies were the underdogs going into the game. The high octane offense of the Rockies were due to face Jake Peavy, the favorite for the Cy Young award with 19 wins on the season and a major league-best 2.36 ERA.

Meanwhile, the Padres and their injury-depleted offense were up against Josh Fogg, the fifth starter for the Rockies who has had a decidedly average career thus far. However, Fogg gained the nickname "Dragon-Slayer" from his teammates this season for besting far better pitchers like Curt Schilling and Brandon Webb throughout the season.

On paper, it still appeared to be a mismatch, but in reality the starting pitchers had little impact on the eventual outcome. Peavy lasted 6.1 innings, but gave up an uncharacteristic 6 runs. Fogg gave up 5 runs in 4 innings. It was a game that the hitters, the bullpen, and the umpires took over.

The Rockies struck first, unleashing 3 runs in the first 2 innings of play, including a home run by C. Yorvit Torrealba. But the Padres quickly retaliated with 5 runs in the top of the third capped off with a grand slam by 1B Adrian Gonzales. The Rockies fought back, however, nailing single runs in the 3rd, 4th, and 6th innings. This put the Rockies back ahead 6-5.

This is the second highest number of runs Peavy had let up in a game this season with the most coming from a start in which he only had a short 3 days' rest. He had been, in short, nearly unbeatable this season, but the Rockies finally chased him from the game with one out in the 7th when Rockies 3B Garrett Atkins hit what was ruled a ground rule double by the umpires.

While camera angles were sketchy at best, it appeared as if it may have bounced off of a chair just beyond the fence rather than off the top of the fence itself and back into the field of play - which is what the umpires ruled. Peavy pitched an intentional walk to RF Brad Hawpe, then reliever Heath Bell came in and managed to strike out the next two batters for the Rockies to strand Jamey Carroll - who came in to pinch run for Atkins - and Hawpe on base.

The Padres tied it up shortly afterwards in the 8th off of a double hit by RF Brian Giles that Matt Holliday misplayed in the outfield. In addition to the critical misplay, Holliday struck out 3 times throughout the course of the game and he showed a lot of frustration as the game went on. The game stayed tied through the ninth and into extra innings.

The Rockies, at first glance, had the advantage as the game went

longer due to a deep bullpen. It wasn't necessarily the quality of relievers, but rather the quantity.

Due to a major league rule that expands roster from 25 to 40 players to let minor leaguers get experience, the Rockies had so many relievers in their bullpen than manager Clint Hurdle had to double up names on his roster chart to fit them all in. However, the Padres had a bullpen with one of the lowest ERAs in the majors. Both teams remained deadlocked through the 10th, 11th, and 12th. Both teams got players on base, but never really threatened to score. At this point, the game was already one of the longest tiebreakers in history.

Then the 13th inning started. Rockies reliever Jorge Julio took over the mound; the Rockies had acquired him earlier in the year after

"The Rockies, at first glance, had the advantage as the game went longer due to a deep bullpen."

Julio failed as the closer for the Florida Marlins. He seemed to channel his Marlins' performance in this game by pitching quite unpredictably.

Julio nearly hit his first batter, Giles, with his first pitch and eventually walked him on five pitches. Then, Julio let up a two run home run to Scott Hairston on just his second strike thrown of the inning. Russ Ortiz came in and finished up the inning, but the damage had already been done.

The Rockies were just 3 outs away from being eliminated from the playoffs. Even worse for the Rockies was the fact that they were going up against baseball's all time saves leader, the future Hall of Famer Trevor Hoffman. It was noticeable that Hairston's homer hurt the sold-out crowd at Coors Field. While they had been crazy all game, they were noticeably quieter going into the bottom of the thirteenth.

It didn't last long though. Kaz Matsui let off the inning with a double and Rookie of the Year candidate Troy Tulowitzki followed that up with a double of his own, his 4th hit of the night. Then up came Holliday who was up for an award of his own: Most Valuable Player. Holliday had not had a great game up until this point, but he put an exclamation point on his campaign by hitting a game tying triple.

Hoffman intentionally walked Todd Helton to bring up Jamey Carroll, a man once voted by baseball players as one of the players that gets the most out of the least talent in an issue of Sports Illustrated last year. Carroll managed to get a fly ball out to shallow right field.

Giles caught the ball, Holliday tagged up, and raced home while Giles threw a dead accurate but lofty shot to try to gun down Holliday. The ball arrived first and catcher Michael Barrett was blocking the plate, but Holliday slid head first into home as Barrett bobbled the ball. Holliday cut up his chin, but the umpire called him safe after a brief pause. The Rockies were in the playoffs. The team celebrated on the field as if they had just won the World Series while trainers attended to a shaken Holliday.

Upon further review, it is unclear whether Holliday's hand actually touched the plate, but Barrett never ultimately tagged him and the umpire's ruling is final due to the lack of video review in the MLB. The Rockies won one of the most thrilling tiebreakers of all time.

This win sent the Rockies to

Philadelphia for a 5 game series against the Phillies. The Phillies had a dramatic race to the playoffs as well, overcoming a 7 game deficit to the New York Mets as of September 12th, the biggest comeback in major league history.

The Phillies were built just like the Rockies with a hard hitting lineup playing in a hitter's park. They had the other NL candidate for MVP in Jimmy Rollins, the reigning 2006 MVP in Ryan Howard - a home run dynamo - and the best-hitting 2B in the league in Chase Utley, a future MVP contender. They too had a young ace in Cole Hamels - he started game 1 against the Rockies.

Hamels was shelled early though, letting up a triple to Todd Helton in Helton's first ever playoff at bat to lead off the second inning. Garrett Atkins drove Helton in on a double and the Rockies proceeded to score three runs. They never looked back as the

Rockies won 4-2, with Jeff Francis picking up the win with 2 earned runs let up and 8 strikeouts in 6 innings pitched. The Rockies are 40-4 all time when Jeff Francis pitches 6 innings and lets up 2 earned runs or less.

The next day, the Rockies picked up when they led off against the Phillies with back-to-back home runs by Tulowitzki and Holliday in the top of the 1st inning. The Phillies took the lead early in the second inning, but the Rockies then proceeded to put it away in the 4th with a grand slam by 2B Kazuo Matsui, a Japanese baseball player who came over to MLB in 2004 and failed as a New York Met. His nickname in Japan was "Little Matsui," referencing the Yankees' home run hitting monster Hideki "Godzilla" Matsui, but it was only Kazuo's 5th home run all season. He ended the game a single short of hitting for the cycle.

The Rockies completed the sweep Saturday at home in front of 50,724 raucous, screaming, towel-waving fans. Rookie Ubaldo Jimenez pitched 6.1 innings of 3-hit baseball and the bullpen never gave up anything. The game was 1-1 going into the eighth inning, but pinch hitter Jeff Baker was able to single in the go-ahead run and the Rockies won 2-1. It was the first time since July 9th, 2005 that they won a game scoring 2 runs or less at home.

Now, the Rockies have won 17 games out of their past 18. Only 2 other teams finished a season winning 14 of their last 15 games and both of them, the 1960 NY Yankees and the 1964 LA Dodgers, made it to the World Series. The Rockies' next opponent, the Arizona Diamondbacks, lost 2 of 3 in Colorado to end the season, but did hand the Rockies their only loss of their streak behind the arm of 2006 Cy Young winner Brandon Webb. The Rockies finally get a break from the grind as the NLCS starts on Thursday.

In addition to field performance, the Rockies have notable character. On July 22nd, the first base coach of their AA affiliate, Mike Coolbaugh, was struck by a line drive and was killed. He left behind 2 sons and his pregnant wife, Amanda. The Rockies recently voted to give a full share of their playoff earnings to Amanda Coolbaugh. "When I heard about what the players did, I almost cried," Dan O'Dowd, the general manager of the Rockies, said of this act of compassion.

Σ THE REDIGGER

Editorials

The Oredigger is a designated public forum. Student editors have the authority to make all content decisions without censorship or advance approval. Opinions contained within the Editorials Section do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Colorado School of Mines or The Oredigger. The Oredigger does not accept submissions without identification, but will honor all requests for anonymity in publication.

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Smile if You're a Neo-Con

Ideology Destroys Everything It Touches

Andrew Aschenbrenner
Editorials Editor

If you identify yourself politically as a neo-conservative, I'd like to meet you. Maybe you can explain what exactly it is. From Paul Wolfowitz to George W. Bush, those who carry the banner of neo-con have supported the illogical, damaging, and dangerous policies that have brought our country to its knees.

As names go, “neo-conservatism” is up there with religious fundamentalism, as something which manifests itself as the opposite of what it pretends to be. In the next 16 months, the first neo-conservative administration in this country’s history will terminate. I can’t think of a better reason to celebrate.

The United States, as led by the Bush Administration and its policies, has let spending run rampant and treated money like it is printed at will. With Bush as the head of the snake, the U.S. has acted like a supreme theocracy, becoming as belligerent as a child who thinks he is always right. In the mind of that child, what he knows is best, and everyone else should follow his rules.

Needless to say, it just doesn't work like that. The world isn't a

playground. Things don't always happen like you want them to. Making people happy should not be the most important piece of your agenda. Now, if you drank the Kool-Aid of national security, it's not your fault. Plenty of people are still entranced by the train wreck that is Bush. Hey, at least his father is sane. George Jr. unfortunately is surrounded by people like Dick Cheney and Karl Rove and the aforementioned Wolfowitz.

The tragedy of the neo-conservative philosophy is not so much that it is inherently flawed, but that so many people have bought into the "spread democracy, fight terror" crock. Not all American voters have yet or will realize that it is not what you do that counts, but how you go about it. Those who call themselves neo-conservatives are so caught up in their own indoctrination that they fail to realize that their main failure is that, instead of launching the Republican party even higher into greatness as intended, they have nearly destroyed the faith of Americans in their politicians.

I cannot find any justifiable explanation for why neo-conservative policies make sense. It seems that policymakers ignore evidence and prior events to push ahead with

blind faith. A good goal must be satisfied with simple, sensible steps, no matter how uncomfortable they may be. The reality is that if you choose steps based on will and not on logic, you only delay your suffering.

When George W. Bush was elected in 2000, I could not vote and had no idea that there was such a thing as a neo-conservative. I liked John McCain better, but I would have chosen Bush over Al Gore if I had a vote. I was with Mr. Bush on September 11th, as I am sure most of America was. However, I simply cannot abandon my sense of what is right and what makes sense to follow policies that satisfy personal preference first and collective need second.

The last twenty-five years in American politics have seen the rise and fall of the "Moral Majority," Reagan's America, the economic and social relaxation in the Clinton era, and the terror-dominated reign of Bush. The United States have stayed strong through 200-plus years of Constitution-based leadership. There is no reason that we should have to abandon that to satisfy a group of "neocons" who insist, despite all evidence, that what they have is right.

Upgrades Upcoming

Trailhead Improvements On the Way

Ginny Lee
Trailhead Portal Manager

The Oredigger's Oct. 1 column What's Your Beef with Mines? presented the following question and response:

Beef: Trailhead is the biggest pain.

Response: You're not alone on this one. This sentiment is generally accepted across campus. The administration is examining the benefits and pitfalls of the program and assessing its impact on our campus. As of right now, that's all I can say. We'll just have to get through this one together.

Maybe an explanation of Trailhead would be helpful. Trailhead is a complex web "portal" or gateway that provides easy access to multiple CSM computer services, systems, and information. Trailhead's primary goal is to provide access to individuals' campus records. The majority of these records are managed by a service called Self-Service Banner. For students, this includes registering for classes and accessing grades, transcripts, billing and financial-aid award information. Faculty members access their course rosters, enter grades, and review advisees' records.

records. Employees access payroll, benefits and attendance/leave information. Campus administrators access campus financial records.

Obviously, that's a lot of data to be synthesized and made available on one website. In fact, the above data alone spans at least four different systems, not counting Trailhead itself. Trailhead also provides single-sign-on (SSO) access to many other campus systems. Log into Trailhead and then instantly access other SSO services without logging in again. Self-Service Banner itself is an SSO service. Other SSO services accessible through Trailhead are: CSM Webmail, Exchange Email (for administrative offices), CSMGroups, the CSM Portal Calendar, Environment Health and Safety Chemical Search, Vacation/Sick Leave Reporting, e~Print Financial Reporting, and Discoverer Viewer (a reporting tool).

But what about other computer systems like Blackboard or the Library system or LON-CAPA? Yes, there are still computer systems on campus not yet connected to Trailhead. For those systems, users still need to remember individual passwords and sign on separately. We are working to provide single-sign-on access to these and other campus services, while improving the functionality of existing SSO services.

In fact, many improvements are in the works. Here's what the campus community will find when an upgraded version of Trailhead makes its appearance in mid-2008:

What's Your Beef With Mines?

ASCSM President Casey Morse Answers Your Questions

Casey Morse
ASCSM President

Beef:
What's with the Indian Statue?
Response:

The statue is called "The Greeting." It is here to give a sense of belonging on campus by illustrating a traditional Native American welcoming. The Lockridge family selected it after they made their donation of \$3 million to help students fund the Rec. Center. The statue also fits well with the President's goal of making Mines a more welcoming place.

Beef:
ASCSM should have a representative from the International Student Organization.

Response:
ASCSM has a designated voting seat on the Senate for an undergraduate and a graduate international student. The graduate student is elected through the Graduate Student Association, but there has never been a structured election process for the undergraduate student. There has not been an undergraduate

international representative at an ASCSM meeting in several years because there is some confusion as to which body is responsible for electing that student to be their representative. Also, as an affiliated club, the ISO could apply for a seat on the ASCSM Club Council, where they could have voting powers over all ASCSM budgetary issues.

Beef:
No paper towels in the Student Center bathrooms, and the toilette paper stinks (the person didn't actually say that; I just wanted to make a pun)

Response:
There are no paper towels because it is more environmentally friendly to use hand dryers. Students did request paper towels in the Rec. Center bathrooms, though. As far as the toilette paper, students tend to steal the good toilette paper whenever the school puts it into public bathrooms. This is also the best way of buying bulk. I suggest

carrying around your own toilette paper if it really bothers you. Anyways, people will think you're cool.

Beef:
Why don't we have a unified Recycling Program across campus?
Response:

I am meeting with the Environmental Health and Safety Department this week to discuss this and some possible solutions.



Beef:
There aren't enough
events for minorities dur-
ing E-Days and Homecoming.

The Mines Activities Council does their best to host events that the entire campus can enjoy. If you have any suggestions for ways to better serve the campus during these events, MAC would appreciate your comments. You can also put more comments into the 'What's Your



Ahmadinejad is No Leader

Ana Sami
Guest Columnist

In the October 1st issue of the Oredigger, an article entitled “Isn’t Ahmadinejad Entitled to Freedom of Speech?” by Satira Tajdin-Labib was published much to the dismay and surprise of many on the CSM Campus. The article is a clear show of support for the Iranian dictator, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, however the claims made have very little support and the author lacks general knowledge and information with regard to politics and the reality of the situation in Iran.

To begin with a response to the title, freedom of speech is indeed a human right, but the sheer irony of such a statement is that Ahmadinejad is the mastermind of denying this very right to his own people. Journalist Amit Pyakurel states that, “Reports suggest that the media is seeing a significant rise in censorship from the present government led by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, more than under any government in the past.”¹ This fact is not surprising. The 2006 Press Freedom Index collected by the international journalism monitoring group, Reporters Without Borders (RSF), ranks Iran 162nd out of 168 countries as being among one of the worst violators of the internationally recognized right of free speech.²

In answering the question “Who is Mahmoud Ahmadinejad?” his history includes a past as a revolutionary guard who was personally responsible for the killing and torture of Iranian political prisoners. Alireza Jafarzadeh, author of “The Iran Threat: President Ahmadinejad and the Coming Nuclear Crisis” (Palgrave Macmillan, 2007) stated evidence that Ahmadinejad is known in Iran as “the man of a thousand bullets” because he was the one to fire the last blow, or *‘tir-khalas,’* to political prisoners who were executed by way of a firing squad.³ Former political prisoners such as 58-year-old Laya Roshan gave a press conference in Paris on September 26th of this year in which she testified that she met Ahmadinejad in 1982 while in the torture chamber of Iran’s notorious Evin prison. Roshan was a dentist who was arrested and taken to Evin prison under the charges of assisting opponents of the regime. As she painfully recalls the vivid memories she has of Ahmadinejad, she also revealed an experience in which she witnessed his torture of a female prisoner when he “held her arm and dragged her on the ground and took her to the torture chamber. The prisoner was returned two hours later with broken teeth, torn lips and blue face.”⁴ Roshan plans to press charges against Ahmadinejad.

Statements Tajdin-Labib makes such as Ahmadinejad is a “great leader” and that he has “done many things” for Iran are wholly unfounded. In actuality, Ahmadinejad is detested by his own people, as well as scores of others around the world. Pyakurel continues to explain that “Iranians live under significant oppression from their government, including restrictions on the freedom of expression and many instances of suppression of other basic democratic norms.”⁵ In December of last year when Ahmadinejad was making a round of visits to Iran’s universities, he was met with student protests at Amirkabir University (Polytechnique) in Tehran. Students were burning photos of Ahmadinejad while shouting “death to the dictator.”⁶ Several of

these students were taken to prison and have since been executed.

Ahmadinejad was originally selected on the platform that he would improve the Iranian economy and to date, voters have rebuked him for failing to deliver on promises to improve the economy;⁷ in fact, the economy has worsened. Saeed Leylaz, a leading Iranian economist stated, “The future of the nation has never been this dark, both economically and politically.”⁸ Ahmadinejad’s tenure has offered nothing but mass oppression and restrictions, fiery diatribes that only enflame the already volatile region, and purposeful chaos and infiltration in Iraq is indeed a ploy to compel US forces to leave the region unsecured—so that the Iranian regime may swallow Iraq whole.

What is meant by the Tajdin-Labib when she states that “Iran has taken a turn for the better in religion and politics” under Ahmadinejad’s reign? Because no evidence or explanation is offered, readers are left wondering, and those who are knowledgeable hotly disagree with good reason. As an Iranian-American living in exile, I feel it appropriate to quote the Iranians on the street, a voice in which Ahmadinejad uses torture and execution to silence. A graduate student by the name of Ali said, “Ahmadinejad promised to do all sorts of things. But he hasn’t done anything. He promised to share out the oil revenue. Look at the price of oil now! Where’s all that money going? There’s no economic management in this country. It’s inefficient. It’s corrupt. Ahmadinejad loves all the international attention. He’s making the most of the nuclear issue to distract attention from the failures of the economy.”⁹ When asked about his/her opinion of Ahmadinejad, a Tehran resident stated that, “He’s achieved nothing in the past year. The economy is very bad. Everyone is poor.”¹⁰

As a Muslim, I can say with confidence that Islam does not advocate the killing of, or as the author puts it, “elimination” of any human being on the basis of personal beliefs, lifestyles, or opinions. Again, the paradox of this principle is that the members of the Iranian regime, who claim that Iran is a nation based in Islam, execute dissidents at will. Amnesty International’s tally of executions reached 210 people since the beginning of 2007, this is already more than the total amount of executions in 2006 (177).¹¹ Amongst these executions includes the horrifying cases of several minors who are systematically killed in Iran. Amnesty International states that Iran currently has 71 minors on death row, and has executed 24 since 1990 which is more than any other country in the world.¹²

Ahmadinejad foolishly, not “fearlessly,” criticizes the US and other countries for “killing” and “wounding” people, and while it is necessary to be critical of US foreign policy, we must remember that when one points a finger at someone, three fingers point back to themselves. All of the ills Ahmadinejad criticizes others for are practices he himself has taken to gruesome levels. This is a classic case of the pot calling the kettle black.

Although it is a known fact that Ahmadinejad financially supports terrorist organizations like Hezbollah, he flatly

denied this verity just before his recent trip to the US when directly asked by the 60 Minutes correspondent Scott Pelley. Therefore, while Ahmadinejad would approve of the praise Tajdin-Labib has for Hezbollah, he might continue to deny the fact that “most of the weapons Hezbollah uses are from Iran,” if he decides to answer the question at all.

Since the obvious must be stated, Iran should not be allowed to harbor a nuclear weapon as it is a threat to global peace and security because of the violent nature of the regime. Contrary to what the author states, the Iranian regime (Ahmadinejad included) has threatened and killed Americans in addition to many other victims all around the world. The 1983 marine barracks bombing in Lebanon killed 241 American servicemen, and was declared in a US court of law to have been directly conducted under the direction and auspices of the Iranian Regime. The 1996 bombing of the Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia killed 19 US servicemen and left 372 wounded. It was confirmed by the 9/11 Commission Report as published in 2004 to have direct ties to the Iranian regime. Former FBI Director Louis Freeh stated, “My own conclusion was that the [Khobar Towers] attack was planned, funded and sponsored by the senior leadership of the Government of Iran. All the training and the funding was done by the IRGC [Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps] with support from senior leaders of the Government of Iran.”¹³

Indeed, as Tajdin-Labib states, Ahmadinejad “does not hate you,” but has shown his hatred toward humankind which far surpasses any level a sane individual can imagine. While it is also true that no man should be hated for their personal beliefs, the situation involving Ahmadinejad is far from being this benign. Ahmadinejad and his cohorts’ beliefs have become wedded with a political system that severely punishes any who wish to oppose the status quo. While differences of opinion and opposing arguments should be encouraged, academic institutions and their publications should insist that arguments made be presented with facts and sound analysis. Academics should continually ask themselves this critical question: Is the value in offering opposing points of view simply to give the illusion of variety and diversity without offering a sound approach based in critical thinking? Or is it that the value lies in the content of the argument itself which should be based on fact and educated arguments as opposed to shallow reactionary comments that have no basis for argument.

The disgrace of Ahmadinejad is shown first and foremost by his ruthless actions, and second by his refusal to answer truthfully as well as his constant evasion when confronted with fact; it is an example of the farce that he is. His childish trickster grin while giving interviews are made in conjunction with his painfully obvious efforts to distract his people as well as the international community from his inevitable demise. I encourage CSM students as well as the international community to know that Ahmadinejad is not the voice of the Iranian people. It is imperative to know guile and deception when it is revealed before the eyes as prominently displayed in Ahmadinejad. This fiend has hijacked the streets of Tehran, and will not cease in spreading his tentacles unless confronted by those who acknowledge the facts as stated above, and then take responsibility as active global citizens.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

A nation of Christians does not equal a Christian nation. Learn the difference and quit perpetuating ignorance. The whole point of the first amendment was to keep politics and religion separate. The founders realized that faith should not be a part of politics just as politics should not interfere with the church, thus freedom of religion. No the constitution does not say exactly “separation of church and state” but that is the whole point of the first amendment in regards to religion. The same can go for science and religion. They are different types of thinking and one should respect the other and vice versa. The USA has the first amendment and people need to start understanding it. Where it came from, why it came to be, and what its ramifications are. Not just spit out sound bites of it and pretend they know what they are talking about. The rights set forth in the first amendment only extend as far as they don’t infringe the rights it set forth for another. There is more to be said of this topic but I leave it at this for you all to pander.

-Jackson Robertson

Dear Editor,

I agree wholeheartedly that this school is due for a change. It needs to be a real noticeable change. The key to this diversity plan is recruitment and retention. These are not possible in a campus that is simply tolerant of any percent of its population. Tolerance is not and should not be an end unto itself; it is a way station on the road to inclusion. Tolerance has a negative connotation and does not encompass the goal for an institution asking it’s populations to become more “culturally fluent”. Cultural fluency is not tolerance; it is an acceptance and integration of cultures, ideas, and ideals. In a school that has high standards for almost all of the endeavors it aspires to, it seems appalling to me that this school would aim for the middle or average in any endeavor it undertakes. The president should be aspiring to inclusion of a diverse population for the school. I think that people need to feel safe, accepted and an integral part of the school. I want to see “a more flexible,” inclusive, accepting, and “sustainable institution”. This goal does not require the lowering of the school’s high standards. To accept the diversity plan as stated right now would be compromising the excellence that is expected from this school. I urge readers to express their opinion to the President’s Committee on Diversity.

-Anonymous



Welcome my friends, fellow Orediggers, I am the Gravedigger. Let me introduce myself in the most uncommonly way possible. I hail from a school where most people graduated with a .0324 blood alcohol level. I never drank, because my mom told me I would loose my manhood, not that there would be much use for it here anyway. Nevertheless, if there are some women in the audience, let me say a little bit about me. Who knows, maybe you will start to fancy me. I’m not Jewish by I’d want to be, I’m not Christian but I ought to be, I am Catholic but I shouldn’t be (talk about a rhyme at the right time). Nevertheless, to all you single ladies reading this, my favorite game is hopscotch, my favorite CD is “Nighttime Ocean sounds,” and I like taking long peaceful walks on my treadmill. There is nothing like breathing in that sweaty gym smell, looking at a blank wall, and having the ultimate Mines phrase go through your head, “Why am I not studying?” Continuing my little bio, to achieve companionship, my turn-ons include: an excruciatingly scary laugh,

weight of exactly 734 lbs., early female baldness, and pretty much the exact replica of a human bowling bowl. My turn-offs include: anything that are not my turn-ons. Thinking back to when my last four hundred pound girlfriend broke up with me, my friend told me the common saying, “There are many other fish in the sea,” to which my only response was, “Yea, but how many whales??” I feel like my 734 pound morbidly obese chubbiness is hard to find in this world anymore, so I’m putting my name out there to hopefully find somebody perfect. Somebody, where it would take me a 4 month expedition to get on her right side, or use as shelter if a nuclear bomb detonates, or, maybe even just share a couple hundred Twinkies with. Am I really asking for that much, come on! So ladies of Mines start eating, because it is getting pretty ridiculous that you don’t even have to suck in your stomachs to get through the cafeteria doors.

Sincerely,
Gravedigger

(Endnotes)

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Several of

What's In an Expletive?

CSU Editorial Stirs Questions About Purpose

Emily Trudell
Staff Writer

It is the purpose of a student newspaper "to cover and explain the relevance of issues that impact the [college] community, primarily students, by providing a broad scope of perspectives," claims the mission statement of the Colorado State University newspaper, the Rocky Mountain Collegian.

When the Collegian printed a four-word, boldly printed editorial containing the f-word reading, "Taser this, [Expletive] Bush" two weeks ago, how is it possible to argue that the paper was upholding its responsibility to "explain the relevance of issues" or provide "a broad scope of perspectives"?

As a new writer for the Oredigger but a long-time news enthusiast, I was shocked to hear that this extreme headline was actually sent to the printers, without question of the morality of printing swearwords in a publicly distributed newspaper.

I was frustrated at the audacity of the publishers of the Collegian to print such a blatantly profane comment. Don't these editors have an obligation to the

rest of the student population to provide an unbiased and fair representation of current events?

It is the duty of the Oredigger, the Rocky Mountain Collegian, or any other college, city, state, or national news source not only to provide an evenhanded depiction of information, but also to provoke readers to go think beyond; to prompt the audience to form opinions and personal insight about current events.

Ironically, it is also my obligation as a writer to admit that the publishers of the Collegian are well within their rights to publish any obscene comment that they choose to print. Regardless of the fact that CSU campus bylaws prohibit the use of profanities in editorials, the university is still a public institution, and is required by law to uphold the First Amendment rights of students.

Still, my conflict with this editorial is not with the rights of the producers of the paper, but with the morality and imperceptible purpose for printing such a headline in general.

As an editorial writer, publishers like the Collegian head editor J. David McSwane have

the opportunity to present arguments and thoughts to the public, and persuade others to see a specific side of an issue. Or, like McSwane, an editor can choose to simply state an opinion, without good reason or explanation.

How effective are the words "[Expletive] Bush" at provoking insightful thought? It seems pretty obvious that this tasteless, four-word editorial was no more than a stunt to grab media attention. Obviously, it's working.

As I mentioned earlier, McSwane and the other authors on the Collegian staff are legally able to print any kind of explosive headline that can be thought up. But just because it was legal to print this controversial headline, does that mean *should* be printed?

In the end, it is my goal as a writer it that this editorial made you, my reader, think about this current event.

With any luck, the Oredigger is consistently succeeding at explaining "the relevance of issues that impact..." Colorado School of Mines, and "providing a broad scope of perspectives" to the Mines community.

New Docket for High Court

William Everson
Staff Writer

Starting October 1st, the United States Supreme Court will convene and hear some of the most important cases in constitutional law. Well, sort of. What follows is a brief explanation of selected cases that the United States Supreme Court will hear in its first session (October 1-10th) and if/why they are important.

First up is Washington State Grange v. Washington State Republican Party. This will definitely be one of the more important cases on the Supreme Court's plate, as it deals fundamentally with how elections are held. The debate is whether Washington state "...[may] force the Republican Party [or any other party] to associate, on election ballots... with any candidate who self-selects the Republican Party as his 'preference'" according to the Respondents' (Republican Party) brief (courtesy of the American Bar Association).

This means that in an election, if any candidate wishes to be classified as Republican or Democrat, all they have to do is say that they prefer Republicans or Democrats, respectively, and they will be considered one. This policy is ridiculous and should be shut down. Political parties are not ideologies; they are clubs.

Conservatives and liberals are ideologies, but Republicans and Democrats are organizations of like-minded individuals and as such have the right to associate with candidates of their choosing.

Second is four cases that all involve criminals trying to get out of jail time. Gall v. United States and Kimbrough v. United States are both open and shut cases between drug dealers and the United States about sentencing disputes. The drug dealers are trying to get out of jail time by questioning the "reason-

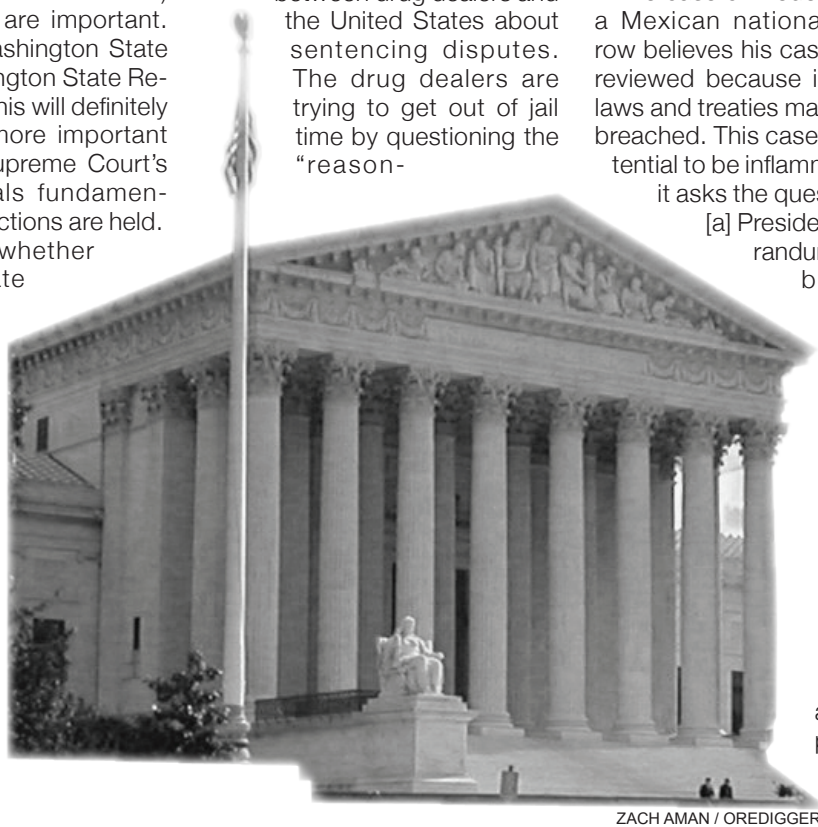
case, United States v. Santos, is between a money launderer and the United States. This criminal is using the unclear legal definition of "proceeds" to try and escape jail time. All of these criminals need to stop wasting taxpayer dollars and take accountability for their crimes.

Finally, we have a case that goes straight to the President. In the case of Medellín v. Texas, a Mexican national on death row believes his case should be reviewed because international laws and treaties may have been breached. This case has the potential to be inflammatory since it asks the question, "Does

[a] Presidential Memorandum constitute binding federal law?"

A I - though this case is just another criminal c o m - plaining about his sentence, it will have binding international and legal repercussions that will effect h o w d e -

fendants are prosecuted. Overall, this Supreme Court session is one of minor importance. Far from the monumental, life changing cases most people are familiar with, this session primarily deals with criminals using the legal system to try and wriggle out of charges. It's a shame that many of these cases have come this far.



ZACH AMAN / OREDIGGER

ableness" of their sentences. The third case, Watson v. United States, involves another junkie who is trying to get time off by disputing "whether receiving a firearm in exchange for controlled substances constitutes use of the firearm during... a drug trafficking crime" (courtesy of the American Bar Association Respondents' brief). The fourth

Justice at Circuit City?

Greg Smith
Staff Writer

My high school government instructor and I always got into arguments that usually ended with him fruitlessly trying to prove that I was an anarchist and me calling him an ignorant pig.

I am a Libertarian. And like many Libertarians, I do not support governmental intrusion into my daily life in the name of security.

Mr. Michael Righi, an entrepreneur and blogger, was leaving a Circuit City in late August of this year. A security guard asked to check his bag to make sure he was not shoplifting. To the guard's surprise he refused.

"I paid for the contents in this bag, are you accusing me of stealing?" asked Mr. Righi. "I'm not accusing you of anything, but I'm allowed by law to look through your bag when you leave."

"Which law states that? Name the law that gives you the right to examine my bag when I leave a Circuit City."

He pushed through the guard to his car. The guard physically blocked him from leaving and Mr. Righi gave the guard three options. Either to accuse him of shoplifting and call the police and he would "gladly wait for them to arrive," get away from his car so he could leave, or he would call the police on the guard for not letting him leave. The latter of the three ensued.

The officer that arrived agreed with the store employee and asked for his driver's license and to see the receipt and the bag. Mr. Righi handed over the bag and the receipt but no license. By this time he was on the sidewalk in front of the store. Mr. Righi claimed that he is required by law to give his name, which he did, but no further because he was not operating a vehicle. The officer put him under arrest. He was later bailed out and regrets nothing of his actions that day.

I, in my radical "anarchist" perspective, agree fully with Mr. Righi. I, unlike a real anarchist, do not endorse lawlessness, but support civil disobedience. Civil disobedience was used effectively by an Indian gentleman by the name of Mahatma Gandhi.

Its purpose is to resist tyranny through non-violent resistance against oppression. The store employees unlawfully forced him to stay at the store! It seems like it would be so much easier, especially because he didn't steal anything, to just submit to the system and let the man check his bags, but blindly surrendering to authority is not being free.

I bet that over half of you readers will just say that it was stupid of him to draw out this process and probably accuse him of trying to exploit loopholes in the system. That is because you have been passively programmed to think that way all of your life. I know that that sounds very "Kafka-esque," but it is true!

People are taught to trust and take comfort in authority. They are brought up in a society of fear - there are locks on every door, everyone's afraid of police, and fear mongering is what

our government specializes in. As long as everyone is in their happy rut going to work and watching football, they won't notice if we [the government] commit genocide and create tension in the Middle East. They won't notice if we spy on and torture our own citizens (1). They won't notice if we manipulate and control the media (2). They won't notice if we slowly suck their freedom from them, all in the name of national security.

"The man who trades freedom for security does not deserve nor will he ever receive either." - Benjamin Franklin.

When was the last time that the

US was attacked on our own soil? 9/11 was mostly committed by Saudi Arabian radicals (3), but hell, Iraq is close enough right? To steal a line from the

Wachowski brother's masterpiece about revolution against an oppressive government, V for Vendetta, "People should not be afraid of their governments, governments should be afraid of their people." It is so true. When a governing body gets too much power, as our arguably fascist government currently holds, corruption is inevitable!

The "atmosphere of obedience" that Orwell warned us about is exactly what is being promoted by letting this seemingly trivial matter of bag inspection go! This is exactly what we should be fighting against. This is not a Libertarian versus "Republi-crat" issue. This is an issue of freedom versus oppression. It may not seem like oppression to have some guy check to make sure you paid for everything in your bag but what comes next? The National RFID card is already legislation (5). A very successful society, known as The Third Reich, also had National ID cards. Our Social Security number was once for social security accounts and drivers licenses for just driving.

The police officer that arrested Michael Righi was unable to find the law that he claimed existed that requires one to produce a driver's license on command, so he had to settle for "obstructing official business."

Is there peace in the totalitarian world of 1984 and Brave New World? Hell yes. But is that how you want to live? Is that freedom? Is that what our country was meant to be? Am I making a quantum leap through political and social space-time? Or have I just woken up from this Matrix that we all live in? That is for you to decide.

Thomas Jefferson once said that a revolution would be necessary in our country every 20 years (4). We are long overdue.

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- (3) <http://slgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?i=/gate/archive/2005/05/20/notes052005.DTL&n=1fx>
- (4) "God forbid we should ever be twenty years without such a rebellion... We have had thirteen States independent for eleven years. There has been one rebellion. That comes to one rebellion in a century and a half, for each State. What country before ever existed a century and a half without a rebellion?" - Thomas Jefferson to William S. Smith, 1787, ME 6:372
- (5) <http://www.unrealid.com/index.html>



MEAVE HAMM / OREDIGGER

Fool's Gold

“Dueling Banjo’s in your mind”



Falcons QB in Trouble...Again

Mike Stone
Chief Zoological Man

Atlanta Falcons Quarterback, Joey Harrington, has been indicted in an illegal giraffe fighting ring. Charges arose on Sunday after the Falcon's lost 20-13 to Tennessee. As was expected, illegal fights ensued.

During the sting operation, Harrington supposedly returned home upset and was videotaped, “throwing down \$20,000 and \$30,000 bets,” claimed lead investigator Mike Nifong. The giraffes then began to battle with razor blades attached to their hooves. After several hours of nibbling on the other's neck, the fight was deemed a “draw” as all the football players involved had to return home to their 18 to 34 children.

Mr. Harrington was first reported to authorities when his neighbor, Atlanta native, Evander Holyfield noticed the giraffes in the suspect's backyard. “I'd seen giraffes on the Animal Planet, but never in my neighbor's yard.” Holyfield con-

tinued, “When there were 28 of them, I got suspicious, so I went over and asked what they were for. Harrington replied, ‘Fertilizer.’” Holyfield then contemplated the significance for five days and called the police when Harrington's trash on garbage day contained three large giraffes.

“I'd seen giraffes on the Animal Planet, but never in my neighbor's yard...”

the first to rock the Atlanta Falcon's starting line. Just last week, Free Safety, Chris Crocker, was proved “guilty” of shark vs. tiger fights. Over a month ago, Michael Vick was proven “guilty” of dog-fighting charges. Finally, three months ago, in what proved to be the most severe and cruel of them all, Center Todd McClure was proven innocent by the jury, but guilty by fans for “steroid-enhanced kitten fights.” It seems the Atlanta Falcon's only need to produce falcon fights to finish their binge.

The investigation continues tonight and the trial is to commence in two months.

Tim Weilert
Bus Rider of the People

This year, CSM students are all enjoying the new and “free” RTD supercalifragelisticexpialidocious bus passes. While half of the student population has picked up their passes at the Student Activities Office, only a handful has actually discovered what RTD refers to as the new “Mystery Routes System.” For the first time, Mines students can visit the scenic wonders of the Jefferson County Landfill, the abandoned Gates Rubber Factory, the Swift meatpacking plant in Greeley, the run-down Hall of Justice, the 2008 Democratic National Convention, and many more exciting locations!

“...earn \$250 an hour by performing open heart surgery...”

As the price of gasoline rose last spring, RTD was forced to discontinue some of their less cost effective routes, such as Route 0 on Broadway and Routes 15 and 16 on Colfax. A traffic engineer with RTD commented on the recent changes to the system. The engineer,

who wished to remain anonymous (for the sake of mystery) said, “The Mystery Routes System is superior to standard transportation plans in that it instills a sense of adventure and wonder into the minds of our customers.”

Surprisingly, there have been few complaints from the public concerning the severe alterations to the bus routes. Commuters

have taken to working wherever their buses happen to drop them off. Last Thursday, local construction workers were ecstatic when they realized that they would be able to earn \$250

an hour by performing open heart surgery at a hospital where

“...superior to standard transportation plans in that it instills a sense of adventure and wonder into the minds of our customers.”

The transition may have happened quickly, but other major metropolitan areas across the nation have already followed Denver's example. Mystery Bus Systems have appeared in New York City, Chicago, L.A. and Washington D.C.



COURTESY WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Claus Cancels Christmas

Recent Events Hamper Operation Policies

Matthew Pusard
Unleaded Consumer

It was the press conference heard round the world. For the first time in seven centuries, Santa Claus was forced cancel Christmas due to complications surrounding the manufacturing of toys. Claus explained, “I've tried the best I could to continue this long-standing tradition, but it became completely unfeasible to deliver toys to boys and girls all over the world this year.”

The cause of this cancellation is undisclosed, but suspicions stand around China and the lead paint in their toys. Santa's Workshop has been unable to handle the volume of toys by itself in recent years, due to rising human populations, falling elf populations, and rising expectations in presents. Santa was buying cheap toys made in China to make up for the workshop's limitations. The outsourcing of the North Pole caused quantity to level off, but quality in his toys to fall. One in five Chinese presents spontaneously combusted upon opening. Nevertheless, it al-

lowed Christmas to go on as normal for the past few years.

Claus has doubled precautions by fortifying staff at the North Pole. There are a limited amount of elves in the world and only a fraction of them are willing to work long



Mike Stone / Oredigger

hours in Santa's shop year round. Therefore, Santa planned on employing illegal immigrants from Canada in his shop. “They only require payments in hockey pucks,” Claus clarified. “I can just pick them up in my sleigh in

front of The Maple Contractor.”

Unfortunately, strict laws have been passed recently in the North Pole, making the employment of illegal aliens almost impossible up in the North Pole. The penguin population has been up in arms about Canadians stealing jobs and causing trouble. The Canadians, however; migrated in search of a better livelihood. The Canadians have refused to adapt into penguin culture by not learning Penguinese and refusing to wear tuxedos, further infuriating the penguins. Some penguins are campaigning for a series of tesla coils to be set up to protect their southern border. Some dissenters argue that the Canadian migration issue is superficial at present time since the North Pole has troops fighting the polar bears in Antarctica.

This is the first time Christmas will be skipped due to non-plague related circumstances. It has been in danger many times, but Rudolph and the rest of the claymation characters saved it every time just in the St. Nick of time.

I Went to MIT!!!

How to Say “No” to Your Prof.

Greg Smith
Lead Student Researcher

Dr. Mark Eberhart, MIT educated Mines Chemistry Professor extraordinaire and all around cool guy, recently received an email voicing complaints about the last Chemistry 1 test. Being the gentlemen and scholar that he is, he sent us all a copy of the email with his reply.

In this email, the plaintiff whined about “poorly worded” questions that he/she got wrong and felt were unfair. The plaintiff was probably a “she” due to the “over-explanationisms”, the ooze of emotion and the fact that women have smaller brains than men. Having to give an answer in nanometers and angstroms is an example of Eberhart's obvious trickery. Oh, Mark, you sly devil you.

Dr. Eberhart replied honestly and eloquently explaining how engineers must overcome obstacles, see the subtleties, and something about

vigilance that I didn't catch. Why didn't I read it more closely? Because, I knew what he really meant. I knew what he really wanted to say.

“You're in college now, s-s-s-suck it up!” The entire response was a metaphor. Who knew?

I will admit, I got a 45 on the test, that's a C with the curve. I

“...engineers must overcome obstacles, see the subtleties, and something about vigilance...”

am overjoyed by this grade, not because it is a 45, but because it's not a 44. Do us both a favor, unnamed freshman: work

harder next time so you get a good grade and I won't have to write another pessimistic article while listening to Ave Maria and huffing ether just to get this blind rage out of my system. (No students were harmed in the making of this article)

[The opinions expressed in this article do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Oredigger, the School of Mines, or any of its affiliates. We do not think Women have smaller brains than men. I mean...come on! Snicker...]



IM SPORTS

DEADLINES

THURS 10/18 - BOWLING (\$5 PER PERSON; FOUR PER TEAM)
THURS 10/18 TABLE TENNIS SINGLES
THURS 10/18 - HANDBALL

RECENT CHAMPS



Men's 3 vs 3 B-Ball Champs Shockers



Women's 3 vs 3 B-Ball Champs Bop-A-C---

FITNESS CLASSES

FITNESS CLASS SCHEDULE:

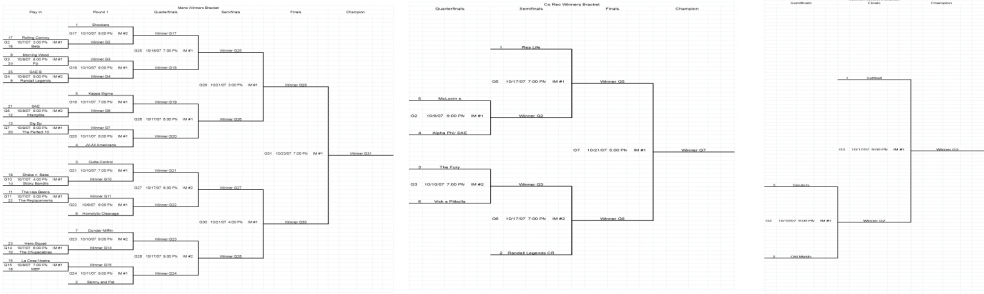
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri
12:05-12:50pm Super Step Cardio	12:05-12:50pm Mind & Body Yoga	12:05-12:50pm Aerobic Dance	12:05-12:50pm Simply Ballistic	12:05-12:50pm Killer Kickboxing
6:30-7:30pm Body Toning Boot-Camp	6:30-7:30pm Body Sculpting	6:30-7:45pm Mind & Body Yoga	6:30-7:10pm Aerobic Dance	

+ALL CLASSES ARE FREE!!

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:
CRAIG ARGUELLO
FITNESS INTERN
CRAIG.ARGUELLO@IS.MINES.EDU



FLAG FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS



CLUB SPORTS NEWS

CLUB CYCLING NEWS

THE CSM CYCLING TEAM IS CURRENTLY LEADING NEARLY EVERY POINTS RACE THERE IS. WE'VE ESTABLISHED MANY TOP 3'S ACROSS THE BOARD, WITH TOP SPOTS IN THE FOLLOWING:

+MEN'S A GRAVITY: BRANDON TURMAN, +MEN'S A ENDURANCE: JOE SCHNEIDER,
+MEN'S B ENDURANCE: NATE MONNIG, +MEN'S C ENDURANCE: PIOTR WILCZEK,
+WOMEN'S A GRAVITY: CHRISTEN BOYER, +WOMEN'S A ENDURANCE: MEL MARTS

CONFERENCE POINTS: 1800+ POINTS OVER THE #2 RANKED SCHOOL
NATIONALS POINTS: 1700+ POINTS OVER THE #2 RANKED SCHOOL

MEN'S RUGBY NEWS

MEN'S RUGBY IS RANKED IN THE TOP 10 AFTER CRUSHING METRO STATE 69 - 0. THEY ARE OFF TO ONE OF THEIR BEST STARTS IN SCHOOL HISTORY!

CLUB SPORTS ATHLETES OF THE MONTH

MEN: VINCE MAZZARELLA (RUGBY, IM TEAM CAPTAIN - OUTTA CONTROL)
WOMEN: MADISON SHOEMAKER (RUGBY, CLUB SOCCER)